



# BULLETIN

Volume 6, Issue 3

May 2001

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

**Henry L. Green**

In 1986, Michigan enacted Public Act 54, the Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act, which requires building officials, inspectors, and plan reviewers to register and participate in continuing education and training programs.

The Act and the Rules for registration set forth minimum qualifications for the registration of individuals who perform inspections of new construction and remodeling projects to assure the work conforms with the requirements established by the State Construction Codes.

The educational requirements for inspectors has been established to provide training to enhance the code official's knowledge and application of construction codes, state statutes and their awareness of new products and technology in the construction industry.

Although Public Act 54 has not been amended since its inception, the Rules for registration have been revised on several occasions. The most recent changes relate to the experience requirements for individuals who apply to become registered as building inspectors or mechanical inspectors. (Rules 37 and 43, of the Building Official, Plan Reviewers, and Inspector Registration Rules)

Although the new rules have been published and provided to all code enforcing agencies, it appears that some agencies are not aware of the registration requirements and may not be reviewing

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Statewide Building, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes Become A Reality

*by Beth Aben  
Executive Assistant*

### Effective Date of the Rules

The bureau has been working for some time to update the building, mechanical, and plumbing codes. The rule process involves many steps to assure the best possible codes for Michigan and to meet legislative requirements. While the proposed target dates have passed, staff have worked diligently to move the rules through the process. The bureau is happy to announce that the building, mechanical, and plumbing code rules become effective July 31, 2001.

### Local Unit of Government Requirements to Continue to Administer & Enforce the Code(s)

As a result of the codes statewide effect, a Notice of Adoption Form must be completed by the chief elected official of each governmental subdivision enforcing one or all of these codes. This form has been mailed to the chief elected official of all units of government administering and enforcing a building, mechanical, or plumbing code. Forms must be completed and returned to the bureau by June 29, 2001. The law provides that a second notice be mailed if the form is not returned by the due date. The governmental subdivision will be provided an additional 15 days to respond. If the governmental subdivision does not respond by the end of the 15 additional days, it shall be conclusively presumed that the governmental subdivision does not intend to continue to administer and enforce the code and the director shall assume the responsibility for administering and enforcing the act and the code in that governmental subdivision, unless the County within which the governmental subdivision is located submits a notice of intent to continue to administer and enforce this act and the code. Once the governmental subdivision is no longer responsible for administration and enforcement of the code as a result of this process, the unit of government would be required to submit a new application for approval to administer and enforce and include all applicable documents for review and approval by staff and the Construction Code Commission. The review and approval process takes approximately 60 to 90 days.

### Future Code Updates

Governmental subdivisions will no longer be required to update their code ordinances. The bureau will promulgate rules every 3 years to coincide with the international cycle. Individuals or organizations may submit comments during the public hearing stage of the rule process. Notification of future rule updates will be included in this publication and may also be found on the bureau's web site at [www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc).

### Code Books Get a New Look

Michigan code rules will be incorporated with the international codes and will be sold as one document. The bureau will no longer sell what was previously referred to as Parts 4, 7, and

*(Continued on Page 2)*



*Director's Column, continued...*

the information contained on the application prior to submitting them to our office.

Failure to include complete information relating to an applicant's work experience at the local level seems to be more prevalent than some of the other issues staff has encountered during the review and approval process.

If you are directly involved in the process of hiring inspection personnel, please review the requirements of the registration rules and make sure that the application is complete. If you are not involved in the hiring process, please provide this information to the appropriate individuals within your community:

1. Complete page one in it's entirety and make sure all information is correct. Particular attention should be paid to the registration classifications. The inspector classifications that are checked should be consistent with the description of duties on page 2 of the application.

2. Page 2 of the application is to be completed in it's entirety by a representative of the unit of government. The signature of the applicant, and an

elected official or designee, is required. The description of the duties to be performed on page 2 should be consistent with the registration classifications that have been checked on page 1.

3. Pages 3 and 4 are designated for the applicant's employment record. This portion of the application is the area that is most often incomplete. All information relating to an individual's employment history must be included and verified with a supervisor's signature.

In order to eliminate any questions regarding an individual's employment history, work related experience and/or licensing status, it is suggested that applicants provide with their application, copies of all trade or professional licenses and letters from previous employers or clients which outline the work performed by the applicant and the dates of employment.

If the applicant was self-employed as a contractor, providing permit and inspection records relating to the work they performed is also beneficial.

Your assistance in assuring that applicants for registration have met the requirements of the rules and have included all pertinent information on the application prior to submitting it to our office is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the requirements for inspector registration, please contact the bureau's Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

---

## Still Using "Department of Labor" Forms/Applications??

On May 15, 1996, many of the functions of the former Department of Labor were merged into a newly created Department of Consumer & Industry Services. As a result, many forms and applications are obsolete. Because many forms were mailed to customers in bulk, the bureau continues to receive requests on outdated forms and applications. In order to eliminate unnecessary delays in processing, please make sure that all forms with the Department of Labor identification are destroyed. Many bureau forms may be found by visiting our web site at [www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc) or you may simply call the respective division to get an updated application or form.

---

*Statewide Codes, continued...*

9a (amendments to the codes). We believe this new style of book will provide contractors and inspectors a much more user friendly document. All amendments, deletions and additions will be easily identified in the code books. Additionally, all residential requirements have been incorporated into one book, the Michigan Residential Code. It is no longer necessary to purchase every code book in order to review the residential construction requirements. The Michigan Building, Mechanical, and Plumbing Code books contain requirements for commercial construction only. In accordance with law, a copy of the promulgated rules (amendments only) will be mailed to the clerk of each governmental subdivision.

## How to Purchase a Code Book

It is anticipated the Michigan code books will be available on or before July 1, 2001. The books are available for purchase as follows:

Michigan Building Code	\$60.00
Michigan Residential Code	\$45.00
Michigan Mechanical Code	\$40.00
Michigan Plumbing Code	\$40.00

The codes and standards order form is available on the bureau's web site at [www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc). Please make a check payable to the State of Michigan and mail your request to the Bureau of Construction Codes, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, Michigan 48909. If you wish to save mailing time, you may pick up a book in person at the bureau's Okemos office located at 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos.

These books may also be purchased directly from BOCA International, 4051 West Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, Illinois 60478.

---

## Are You Using the Correct Address?

When mailing correspondence to the bureau please identify the appropriate division on the envelope. Also, please refer to the bureau directory on page 5 of this newsletter for the appropriate post office box. Post office box numbers should be used on all correspondence unless you are mailing via overnight delivery.

---

BULLETIN

BUREAU OF  
CONSTRUCTION  
CODESMICHIGAN DEPARTMENT  
OF CONSUMER &  
INDUSTRY SERVICES

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 48,000 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, inspector registrants, manufactured home communities, installer/servicers, and retailers throughout the state.

Editor-in-Chief: **Henry L. Green**  
Editor: **Kathy Stump**

Bureau of  
Construction Codes  
P.O. Box 30254  
Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 241-9313  
Fax (517) 241-9308  
[www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc)

## High Pressure Boiler Piping

by Bryan Jorgensen, Assistant Chief  
Boiler Division

The Boiler Act of 1965, P.A. 290, (hereafter referred to as the Michigan Boiler Law and Rules), Rules 408.4032 and 408.4033 addresses piping connected to high pressure boilers that extends out to the load and back. Specifically, the piping under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Boiler Law and Rules is steam piping to the load, feedwater piping, blow down piping and condensate piping.

The requirements for the piping design and material are found in ASME B31.1 the Power Piping Code as referenced by Act 290. This code sets the standards for the size, weight, thickness, and pressure/temperature ratings of the pipe used. This code also requires that all welding done on this pipe be accomplished using qualified welding procedures and qualified welders in accordance with ASME IX, the Welding Code.

The Michigan Boiler Law and Rules require that companies performing welded pipe installations, replacements or repairs be properly licensed under the Act. In addition, the licensee's welding procedures must be on file in the office of the Bureau's Boiler Division. A contractor with an installers license of at least a 3B or higher or a repairers license class II or higher may do these types of piping jobs. The division also offers a "P" license for those contractors who do only piping.

Permits are required for any welding performed on any high pressure boiler piping as defined by Rules 32 and 33. Threaded pipe may be installed, replaced or repaired by a licensed contractor without submitting a permit, however, all other requirements of ASME B31.1 must be met.

Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

## Holiday Closing

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

May 28 - Memorial Day  
July 4 - Independence Day

## Scheduled Board Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Manufacturing Housing Commission	June 6	10:00 a.m.	Mercantile Way, Ste. 7
Electrical Administrative Board	June 15	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Board of Boiler Rules	June 12	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
State Plumbing Board	June 12	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Board of Mechanical Rules	June 27	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Construction Code Commission	July 11	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Barrier Free Design Board	July 13	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Elevator Safety Board	July 13	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
State Plumbing Board	July 18	8:15 a.m.	Escanaba Office Building
Manufacturing Housing Commission	July 25	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Aug. 17	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1

Okemos - 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos  
Mercantile Way, Ste. 7 - 6545 Mercantile Way, Lansing  
Escanaba Office Building - 922 N. Lincoln, Escanaba

## License Exam Schedule

EXAM	DATE	LOCATION	DEADLINE
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	July 13	Okemos	June 22
Elevator Journeyperson Exam	July 18	Okemos	June 29
Master & Journey Plumber Exam	July 19	Escanaba	June 29
Mechanical Contractor Exam	August 2	Escanaba	July 5
Journeyman & Master Electrician Exam	August 22	Lansing	July 25
Boiler National Board Exam	September 5/6	Okemos	August 6
Boiler Installer/Repairer Exam	September 5/6	Okemos	August 6
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	September 7	Okemos	August 17
Master & Journey Plumber Exam	September 12	East Lansing	August 24
Mechanical Contractor Exam	September 19	Lansing	August 22
Journeyman & Master Electrician Exam	September 27	Escanaba	August 29

Dates and locations are subject to change.

## New Journey Plumbing Examination

by Robert G. Konyndyk, Chief  
Plumbing Division

The State Plumbing Board will implement a new journey examination at the September 12, 2001, test. The board will discontinue the lead wiping portion of the practical and use a "Practical Application" isometric work booklet.

The journey examination will now consist of a three hour practical test, composed of the isometric work book and copper practical which has been in use. The written test will continue to be in the afternoon. The practical application workbook consists of fifty multiple choice questions answered on a machine gradable form. The questions are based upon drawings in the workbook on general plumbing code knowledge as an open book test with the 1997 International Plumbing Code book. Questions will address general mathematics in the plumbing industry, venting, drainage and other practical applications.

The practical test will begin in the morning with copper material set up on the exam floor area followed by examinees moving to the arena in the stands. Instructions will be given in the stands with the code and workbooks distribution. Applicants are advised to bring 24 inch square masonite lap boards to be used as a work surface. Individuals will budget their own time frame for completion and move to the arena floor area to complete the copper project.

Additional details will be distributed with examination packets and upon request. Questions may be directed to Robert Konyndyk, Chief Plumbing Division, (517) 241-9330.



## Permit Fee Complaints

by David E. Vigas, Director  
Office of Management Services

The Bureau of Construction Codes receives many questions and complaints concerning local enforcing agency permit fees. Section 22(1) of PA 230, the State Construction Code Act, states:

"The legislative body of a governmental subdivision shall establish reasonable fees to be charged by the governmental subdivision for acts and services performed by the enforcing agency or construction board of appeals under this act, which fees shall be intended to bear a reasonable relation to the cost, including overhead, to the governmental subdivision of the acts and services, including, without limitation, those services and acts as, in case of an enforcing agency, issuance of building permits, examination of plans and specifications, inspection of construction undertaken pursuant to a building permit, and the issuance of certificates of use and occupancy, and, in case of a board of appeals, hearing appeals in accordance with this act. The enforcing agency shall collect the fees established under this subsection. The legislative body of a governmental subdivision shall only use fees generated under this section for the operation of the enforcing agency or the construction board of appeals, or both, and shall not use the fees for any other purpose."

The Michigan Department of Treasury has issued two "Letters" concerning how this section should be applied by local units of government. Letter Number 2000-2 and Letter Number 2000-6 are both found on the Department of Treasury's web site at, [www.treas.state.mi.us/localgov/audit/letters/2000/2000index.htm](http://www.treas.state.mi.us/localgov/audit/letters/2000/2000index.htm).

If you have any questions, please call (517) 373-3227 or write:

Michigan Department of Treasury  
Local Audit and Finance Division  
P.O. Box 30728  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8228

---

## Safety Slogan

IT'S BETTER TO BE LATE MR. JONES  
THAN THE LATE MR. JONES.

## Listed and Labeled

by Tennison B. Barry, Chief  
Mechanical Division

Section 301.3 of the 1996 Michigan Mechanical Code indicates that equipment and appliances that are installed as part of the mechanical systems must be listed and labeled, unless otherwise approved in accordance with Section 105 of the code. This section of the code allows the mechanical inspector two options when it comes to approval of equipment covered under the mechanical code.

Option 1. The equipment has the label of an approved testing agency affixed to it. The label indicates that a sample of the equipment has been tested and evaluated by an approved agency and it has been determined the equipment will be able to perform in an acceptable manner when installed to its listing.

Option 2. The inspector may approve the equipment in accordance with Section 105. When unlabeled equipment is considered, the decision must be made based upon documentation that demonstrates compliance with the appropriate standards or, where no product standards exist, that the appliance or equipment is appropriate for the intended use.

There is one other way products are approved and that is under Section 21 of 1972 PA 230. Act 230 gives the Construction Code Commission the authority to approve products. When this process is completed the product, equipment or appliance is approved for statewide use without exception. Local jurisdictions must allow the installation of products approved by the Commission.

If you have questions regarding product approvals please contact the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

---

## Electrical License Jurisdiction Changes

by Thomas Kriegish, Chief  
Electrical Division

During the next several months the Electrical Division will be assuming licensing responsibility for numerous communities that previously had their own licensing jurisdiction. The process of change is outlined in the Michigan Electrical Administrative Act, 1956 PA 217. Section 6 of the Act indicates that the provisions of the Act do not apply within a city, village or township, that has adopted an ordinance

equal to the act, for issuance of licenses to their residents. Conversely, upon rescission of the local ordinance, the license jurisdiction will revert to State regulation. When the bureau receives proper notification of a locally issued license being transferred, we intend to process the individual's license information to our data system and subsequently issue a renewal notice for the individual's 2002 license. Division staff will be working directly with each respective local unit of government to complete the project. Individual inquiries should be withheld to limit the number of phone calls received in the Division.

---

## Barrier Free Design Exception Intervention

by Irvin J. Poke, Chief  
Plan Review Division

The barrier free design exception process allows for petitions for leave to intervene. The petition may be filed at any time before the commencement of the initial hearing. The petition must state the interest of the petitioner and show their participation will assist in the determination of the issues. The intervention must not unnecessarily delay the exception proceedings. Such petitions shall be addressed to the Department of Consumer & Industry Services' Bureau of Hearings with a copy to the Barrier Free Design Section of the Bureau of Construction Codes.

Status under intervention is not automatic. The petitioner must provide material to show that they have factual information that is germane to the exception request. The parties in the exception process (the applicant and building official) may submit briefs on the petition to intervene. The petition is reviewed by the presiding officer and a recommendation is prepared. The recommendation is forwarded to the Barrier Free Design Board for a final ruling on the intervention.

If the petitioner is granted status as an intervener, they become a party of the proceedings. They now have all the rights and responsibilities afforded the applicant and building official. All parties are entitled to copies of the documentation in the proceedings. And, each party is obligated to copy all parties when submitting materials for the proceedings.

## Bureau of Construction Codes Directory

### Department of Consumer & Industry Services

#### Bureau of Construction Codes

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)  
P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payments)  
P.O. Box 30222 (Enforcement Division)  
P.O. Box 30703 (Manufactured Housing Section)  
P.O. Box 30704 (Subdivision Control/Survey and Remonumentation Section)  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Fax Numbers: Administration - (517) 241-9570  
Codes - (517) 241-9308  
Enforcement Division - (517) 241-6481  
Manufactured Housing Section - (517) 241-6301  
Subdivision Control/Survey and Remonumentation Section - (517) 241-6302

#### Administration ..... (517) 241-9302

Office of the Bureau Director and Deputy Directors; legislation; rule promulgation; budget oversight; web development/updates; Construction Code Commission meetings.

#### Boiler Division ..... (517) 241-9334

Code questions; boiler installers license; boiler inspectors license; boiler repairers license; boiler permits and inspections; complaints and reporting of boiler accidents; boiler invoices; purchase of boiler code books; and Board of Boiler Rules meetings.

#### Electrical Division ..... (517) 241-9320

Code questions; electrical examinations and licenses; apprenticeship registration; electrical inspections; and Electrical Administrative Board meetings.

#### Elevator Division ..... (517) 241-9337

Code questions; elevator examinations and licenses; elevator permits and inspections; purchase of elevator code books; complaints and reporting of elevator accidents; and Elevator Safety Board meetings.

#### Enforcement Division ..... (517) 241-6480

Administrative action regarding violations of the Mobile Home Commission Act and Rules.

#### Manufactured Housing and Land Development Division

##### Manufactured Housing Program ..... (517) 241-6300

Manufactured housing questions; manufactured home community construction plans and permit approvals; community pre-licensing inspections; community, installer/servicer, and retailer licenses; community and retailer audits; complaints against manufacturers, communities, installer/servicers, and retailers; manufactured housing community ordinance and variance request reviews; Manufactured Housing Commission meetings.

##### Survey and Remonumentation Program ..... (517) 241-6300

Grant and general questions; administers statewide program of monumenting and remonumenting the original U.S. government public land survey property controlling corners.

##### Subdivision Control Program ..... (517) 241-6300

General questions; ensure orderly division of land; conduct final reviews of plat maps.

#### Mechanical Division ..... (517) 241-9325

Code questions -- i.e., furnaces, HVAC (heating, and air conditioning), duct work, solar heating, refrigeration, underground tanks; Mechanical Contractor examinations and licensing; mechanical inspections; and Board of Mechanical Rules meetings.

#### Office of Local Government and Consumer Services ..... (517) 241-9347

Adoption process and requirements of locally enforced building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing code ordinances; complaints regarding local code enforcement electricians, mechanical contractors, plumbers, and barrier free design requirements; inspector registration, training and educational requirements, and instructor approvals for training and education.

#### Office of Management Services ..... (517) 241-9313

Building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits; electrical, mechanical, and plumbing license renewals; purchase of code books.

#### Plan Review/Building Division ..... (517) 241-9328 or (517) 241-9317

Plan review status, signature and seal requirements for plans; premanufactured construction requirements and premanufactured unit labels; code questions -- i.e., residential, commercial, foundations, drywall, roofing, footings and foundations, snow loads, demolition, etc.; school construction inspections; building permit questions; building inspections; and certificates of occupancy. Barrier free design questions; exception applications; and Barrier Free Design Board meetings.

#### Plumbing Division ..... (517) 241-9330

Code questions -- i.e., plumbing fixtures, water distribution, sanitary and storm lines; plumbing examination and licensing; apprenticeship registration; and State Plumbing Board meetings.

### Office Locations

Administration, Boiler, Electrical, Elevator, Mechanical, Plan Review/Building/Barrier Free Design, Plumbing Divisions, Office of Management Services-Permit Section, and the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services are located at **2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan 48864**.

Manufactured Housing Program, Survey and Remonumentation Program, Subdivision Control Program, and Enforcement Division are located at **6546 Mercantile Way, Lansing, Michigan 48911**.

## Elevator Journeyperson Licenses

by Calvin W. Rogler, Chief  
Elevator Division

The Elevator Safety Division has received quite a few inquiries regarding the elevator journeyperson license. Specifically the ability to perform work when the license has expired. Some journeypersons have incorrectly thought that they were covered for an additional 60 days after their license expired. The following is submitted in hopes of clearing up any misunderstandings.

Section 5 and 7 of Act 333 of the Public Acts of 1976 states in part:

Sec. 5. (1) The work of installation, alteration, maintenance, repair, servicing, inspecting, adjusting, or testing of an elevator covered by Act No. 227 of the Public Acts of 1967, shall be done by a person who is licensed by the department . . . as an elevator journeyman, or his helpers under the immediate supervision of a licensed elevator journeyman.

Sec. 7. An elevator journeyman's license shall expire 1 year after the date of issue, and, unless renewed **60 days** thereafter, shall be revoked.

Once the license has expired it is no longer in effect and the journeyperson doesn't meet the requirements of Section 5 above. If a journeyperson is working with an expired license, unless working under the immediate supervision of another licensed elevator journeyman, they are in violation of Section 5 and are subject to the fines and penalties of Section 10. This could include license suspension or revocation, fines of \$50 or \$100, and/or imprisonment.

The 60 days expressed in Section 7 above is a time limit given before the expired license is revoked by the Elevator Safety Division.

## Manufactured Home Foundations

by Richard VanderMolen, Director  
Manufactured Housing & Land Development

Foundations for manufactured homes in manufactured home communities are required to be part of the detailed construction plans developers submit to the Manufactured Housing and Land Development Division for approval. A developer is allowed to submit plans for more than one type of foundation system for a community. In addition, a developer must submit a soil analysis prepared by a licensed professional engineer. The analysis report shall include the type of soils and soil bearing values. Further a statement is required to indicate the soil conditions are suitable for the support of homes placed on the site.

Approved construction plans allow for foundation systems to be constructed under a permit issued by the Division. Foundation systems contained in the approved construction plans are the only systems permitted to be constructed in that community.

A community requesting the use of a foundation system, which has not been approved, must submit a request for change to the approved construction plans to the Department. The request must include a bulletin, addendum or other documentation including shop drawings depicting the foundation system proposed and the soil analysis.

Questions may be directed to the Manufactured Housing and Land Development Division at (517) 241-6300.

### Check the Bureau's Web Site First Before Making that Long Distant Telephone Call!

Visit the bureau's web site at [www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc) for current information regarding licensing requirements, exam schedules, publications, forms, rules, etc. It may save you the cost of a long distance telephone call.

Printed under the authority of 1972 PA 230. Paid with State Construction Code Funds. Total printed: 53,000 Printing cost: \$ X,XXX.00 Per copy cost: \$ 0.XXX

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LANSING MI  
PERMIT NO. 1200

Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services  
Bureau of Construction Codes  
P.O. Box 30254  
Lansing, Michigan 48909